

Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

1st May 2011

2nd Sunday of Easter - Low Sunday



Church of  
England

## Partnership Church Services Today

### 1 May– 2nd Sunday of Easter

#### 9.30 am St Mark's - Family Service with Baptism

Preacher – Deacon Jane Mason  
Leadership – Mrs Elizabeth Bean  
Intercessions – Mr Mike Elliott

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Family Service

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters  
Leadership – Mr Gordon Evans  
Intercessions – YPG

### 8 May– 3rd Sunday of Easter

#### 9.30 am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership – Mr. Mike Ovendon  
Intercessions – Mrs. Morag Stewart

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership – A.N. Other with Mrs. Linda Hoare  
Intercessions – Dr. Tim Wilkes

**Bible Readings** 1. Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 2.1 Peter 1: 17  
-23 3. Luke 24:13-35

**Midweek Worship Holy Communion** at St Mark's  
Chapel every Wednesday at 10.00am and at Sir William  
Harpur House on first Monday of every month at 10.00am

## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Mary and Harry Stokes in loving memory of Harry's parents and two brothers, and by Barry and Jenny Snelson in celebration of the birth of their new grandson, Charlie John.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Joyce Bean and family in memory of Raymond.

## Welcome

We especially welcome to worship this morning the family and friends of Felicity Katy Barker and Henry David Barton, who have been brought for baptism.

## Prayer for the Week

Risen Christ,  
for whom no door is locked,  
no entrance barred:  
open the doors of our hearts,  
that we may seek the good of others  
and walk the joyful road  
of sacrifice and peace,  
to the praise of God the Father  
*Common Worship Shorter Collect*

### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com  
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

### Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE  
348091 Mobile 07807 146535  
jane@thisischurch.com

### The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY  
309175 Mobile 07973 113861  
vicar@thisischurch.com

### For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in  
Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website  
and may appear in other local media sources.

Partnership News is also archived on our  
church website [www.ThisIsChurch.com](http://www.ThisIsChurch.com)

### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@ThisIsChurch.com  
*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved,  
housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.  
Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

**Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846  
**Leadership Team** Mrs. Linda Hoare 782717  
**Treasurer** Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** John Hitt 404186  
**Youth Worker** Emma Gordon email - 07593266091  
youth@thisischurch.com

### St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
**Leadership Team** - Laura Farthing 210892

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

- 9.15 –3.45 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)  
Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685
- 8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634  
(See website for more details)
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights  
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs Berry ☎211955
- 10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 12.15pm Story box** Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Emma Gordon ☎07593266091
- 2pm U3A Music Appreciation** - Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting Contact Linda Reed ☎ 216623
- 3.30pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities.
- 4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎01767699399 or 07720713738.
- 6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
- 7.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
- 7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
- 7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting—16 May Judith Stanton. ☎823313
- 7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.
- 8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

## Tuesday

- 9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016
- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart ☎365507
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** for the less mobile. Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.15pm Toddlers Playtime/Sing & Stomp** - Putnoe Heights for toddlers and their carers. Run by Putnoe Childre's Centre Trudy Hamilton ☎340552
- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

- 2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
- 2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation** fortnightly. Contact Mrs Reed ☎216623
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Contact John Farish ☎ 824984
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** May 3 Deacon Jane Mason 'Anjulita Court'. For more details contact Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225
- 2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.
- 3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.
- 6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718
- 6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885
- 7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
- 7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or [www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk](http://www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk)
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting May 3 'Gentle Exercise'. For more details call Janet King 313946
- 8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers** St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

## Wednesday

- 9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am U3A Card Making,** St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet Fitch 838689
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 11 May Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
- 1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .
- 1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811
- 1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
- 1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823
- 2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
- 3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. 3rd Wednesday in the month.. Wendy Waters 401834

**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

**6.00pm Shooting Stars.** Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 26 January.

**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138 or 07910835994.

**6-8pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885

**7.00pm Bunyan Bridge.** St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎347073

**7.00pm Line Dancing** Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378

**8.00pm Badminton Club** Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be May 4 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.

**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

### Thursday

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon ☎356306 .

*Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Meet again on 28 April. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

**11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau** Putnoe Heights.

**12pm Storybox** . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing . Lots of fun. Meet again on 28 April. Contact Jaana Swaby ☎363283

**1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic** St. Mark's ☎267444

**1.30pm Toddler Playtime.** Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293

**1.45 Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights** £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

**2pm Putnoe Bridge Club.** Gerald Palmer ☎345991

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games** St Mark's Contact Radmila Dancer ☎404811

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741

**4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale ☎406094

**7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517

**8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers** (formerly Barn dancers)

Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron Law 825574.

**8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle.** St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193

**8.00pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607

**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

### Friday

**9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography** (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

**9.00am Clubhouse** St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

**10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French** St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

**12.15pm U3A Photography** (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

**2.00pm U3A Gardening Group** Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

**5-8pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton ☎297138 or 07910835994

**7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club.** St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

### Saturday

**10.00am Theatretrain** St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414

**Young Embroiderers** bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

**2.15pm Society of Recorder Players** at Putnoe Heights. G Parry ☎01462 674792

**7.00pm Duplicate Bridge.** St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

### Sunday

**9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School** at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

**11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior** at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

**1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

**7-9pm Tae Kwon Do** St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice [www.bedfotrdtkd.com](http://www.bedfotrdtkd.com) or [bedfordtkd@googlemail.com](mailto:bedfordtkd@googlemail.com).

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council –**

**St Mark's Leadership Team**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 6 June**

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - .26 May**

**St Mark's Forum Meeting - 13 July**

**Putnoe Church Council - 13 June –7.30pm**

**Pastoral Group Meeting - 14th June**

**Churchyard Committee - 19th May –11.15am**

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -**

**Circuit meeting -**

**Deanery Meeting - .**

**Woodland Burial Trustees – 15th May 12.30pm**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –**

*Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.*

## 2nd Sunday of Easter

### Opening Sentence from Scripture .– 1 Peter 1:3

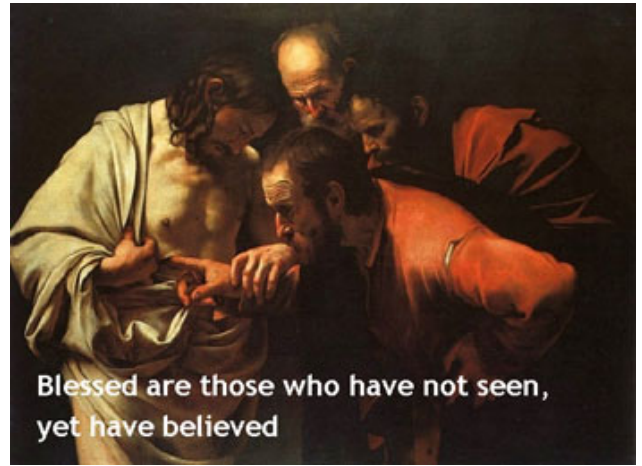
Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

### Collect Prayer for the Day

*(Before we read we pray)*

Almighty father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification:

grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Common Worship*



Blessed are those who have not seen,  
yet have believed

### First Bible Reading Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

“Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

“Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. David said about him: “ ‘I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

“Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact

(This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

### Second Reading - 1 Peter 1: 3-9

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

(This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

### Gospel Reading - John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending

you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.” A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.  
(This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God.**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Hymns** (*Please distribute Mission Praise, Baptism Booklets at St Mark's*)

1. Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord 30
2. Stand up, stand up for Jesus 617
3. I will sing the wondrous story 315
4. All Heaven declares! 14
5. Lift High the Cross! 417

### **Commentary** Doubting Thomas

Thomas is one of the disciples we actually know very little about, but the term ‘doubting Thomas’ is part of common speech, even though many of those who use it do not realise its origin (as indeed with the title ‘Judas’ being used for one seen as a traitor against a cause). But is this a fair way for him to have become known by history?

One of the few times Thomas’ words are recorded in the gospels, as we heard only a few weeks ago, was in John 11, after they hear about the illness of Lazarus. Jesus and the disciples have barely escaped from Judea with their lives after the attempted stoning of Jesus, and now Jesus suggests going back. It is Thomas who says bravely or perhaps with a sense of irony or resignation, ‘let us also go’ that we may die with him.’ Either way, this demonstrates a courage we do not always equate with this apostle.

What, then, do we actually know about him? Although he is not as well known as others, such as Peter or Paul, there are historical and literary sources that give us an idea of what he went on to do. As an Evangelist he is believed to have taken Christianity to India and there are mentions of links to Syrian Kings. So clearly he went on to do great things and became a key figure in the early church, his doubt lead him to demonstrate great faith.

Tradition tells us a little more, just like Peter, who is given three opportunities to accept Jesus when he appeared to them at the fire on the beach only days after Peter rejected Christ 3 times by the fire in the court of the high priest. Thomas is also given the opportunity to experience his doubt from the other side. According to ‘the passing of Mary’, a text regarding the death of Jesus’ mother, (thought to have been written by Joseph of Arimathaea), having missed her death while in India, Thomas is the only apostle to witness her assumption into Heaven, at which she dropped her belt (or girdle). In an ironic reversal of this appearance telling, the others do not believe him until they see her empty tomb and the girdle.

Is doubting actually such a negative?

Pierre Abelard said the following; ‘The beginning of wisdom is found in doubting; by doubting we come to the question, and by seeking we may come upon the truth.’

So, like Paul suggests in Romans 8, as discomfort leads to hope for change, and hope leads us to do something about the situation, so to can doubt lead to exploration and a deeper truth. We are actively encouraged to question things we take for granted, but about faith we should have no doubt; in Mark 11 Jesus says;

*"Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."*

In popular culture too this theme can be found, in the Star Wars film, 'The Empire Strikes Back', while training with Yoda the young Luke Skywalker tries to use his faith in 'the force' to raise a sinking space ship out of the swamp, and fails. Yoda said 'Try not, Do or do not, there is no try'. When the diminutive Yoda raises the ship unaided Luke is amazed and says 'I don't believe it', 'that is why you fail' responds Yoda.

Yet over confidence too can lead to disaster, in the recently released film adaptation of Marvels 'Thor', Odin sends his son to earth to learn the skills he needs to be king, after he was nearly defeated in an ill-advised raid on another realm. Stripped of his 'super-human' powers the young man has to learn to use his brain and think about the needs of others in order to be victorious. We should indeed have faith in God, we should also have faith in our own abilities, because doubt there can mean we do not even try. Yet we also need to know our limits, and sometimes we can only discover what those are by pushing, and in doing so we, at times, need to be prepared to fail.

## **Meditation**

### **Is there any hope?**

Rejected.

Jesus was rejected.

Ignored.

Jesus was ignored.

Despised.

Abandoned.

Broken.

But...

Within that rejection was hope.

The hope of resurrection

and re-creation.

The hope of transformation

There is hope .

If only we would cease

Abandoning..

Ignoring.

Rejecting *David Hall, Director of the  
Leprosy Mission in New Zealand.*

### **Prayer**

Look to this day for it is life,  
the very life of life.

In its brief course

lie all the realities and truths of existence;

The joy of growth, the splendour of action,

the glory of power:

For yesterday is but a memory

and tomorrow is only a vision,

But today, well lived,

makes every yesterday a memory of happiness

and every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Look well, therefore, to this day!

## **Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead**

Lord, make my life a window for Your light to shine through and a mirror to reflect your love to all I meet.  
Amen.

Risen Lord Jesus, you come to us in the most surprising - and the most ordinary - ways. Just when we begin to forget or doubt you, when we begin to live our lives as if you don't matter, you come - speaking to us, feeding us, encouraging us. You never forget us or fail us. Without you we are weak and fail often but with you we are strong. May we be made deeply aware of your presence this day.

God of the prophets, you fulfilled your promise that Christ would suffer and rise to glory. Open our minds to understand the scriptures that we may be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity, of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

## Welcome

### Opening Sentence from Scripture

Minister: Alleluia, Christ is Risen!  
**All He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**  
Minister: Grace mercy and peace from God  
our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**All and also with you**  
Minister This is the day that the Lord has  
made  
**All we will rejoice and be glad in it**

**We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.**

### Hymn: 30

**Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord**

### Prayer of Confession

Minister: If we have fallen into despair,  
**All: Lord, forgive us.**  
Minister: If we have failed to hope in you,  
**All: Lord, forgive us.**  
Minister: If we have been fearful of death,  
**All: Lord, forgive us.**  
Minister: if we have forgotten the victory of  
Christ,  
**All: Lord, forgive us.**

*The minister announces the words of forgiveness after a moment of silence*

May the living God raise us from despair, give us victory over sin and set us free in Christ. **Amen.**  
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. This is his gracious word: 'Your sins are forgiven.'  
**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

### Offering

*After the offering is collected we stand as it is brought forward.*

**All: Gracious God, accept these gifts, and with them our lives to be used in your service through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Baptism (At St Mark's Church Only)**

**Hymn 617: Stand up, stand up for Jesus**

**The Collect Prayer and Bible Readings**  
*These can be followed in partnership news*

**Hymn 315: I will sing the wondrous story**

### Address

## A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, we thank you that you came to live as one of us, to die for our sake and then you arose from the grave. You are so amazing, too wonderful for us to even imagine, yet you call us your children and invite us into your presence.

**May you be praised for ever and ever.**

Generous God, we thank you that you fill our lives with so many good gifts, in the natural world, in people and in our own skills and interests.

**May you be praised for ever and ever.**

Sacrificial God, for our salvation you suffered the pain and humiliation of the cross, overcame death and opened for us the gate to everlasting life.

**May you be praised for ever and ever.**

Loving God, we thank you that you are always with us and that you share in every part of our lives.

**May you be praised for ever and ever.**

Challenging God, we thank you that you have a place for each one of us to serve you and to work for the coming of your kingdom here on earth. Help us to listen to your call and to respond with joy.

**We dedicate ourselves to you; strengthen us by your Spirit to do your will, and bring us with all your saints to the glory of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

**Hymn 14: All Heaven declares!**

### Prayers of intercession,

Leader: Lord in Your Mercy  
**All: Hear Our Prayer**

*Ending with*

**Leader: Merciful Father**  
**All: Accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*We say together the prayer that Jesus gave us*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power  
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn: 417: Lift High the Cross!**

### Blessing

**All: We go into the world to walk in the light of the risen Christ, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory.**

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**All: In the name of Christ, Amen.**

**Churches Together** in Bedfordshire Annual Forum. Wednesday 25 May at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Flitwick. Speaker The Rt. Revd Richard Inwood, Bishop of Bedford. Buffet meal from 6.30pm, meeting at 7.30pm.

**A Service of Praise to Celebrate the Life of Charles Wesley** on Sunday May 22, 2011 at 6.30pm Putnoe Heights Church. Conducted by Revd Eric Royden

**Christian Aid week 15 -21 May.** If you are able to help with delivering and collecting for Christian Aid in the Brickhill area of roads for which St Mark's is responsible, will you please see John and Irene Harrison after the church service or call in at the office. Thank you John & Irene Harrison

**Footprints Walking Group** Sunday 8 May 2.30pm start. Meet at Moggerhanger Park for a 3 mile circular walk along the Thornton Way and (hopefully) enjoy the bluebells in Moggerhanger Woods. John & Sally

**St. Mark's Craft Stall** would like to thank everybody who bought their novelties. We made over £60 for church funds.

**Car Boot Sale** – 2 May. We would be very grateful for bric-a-brac, tools, china, books, CD's, puzzles etc for the Church stall. Preferably in reasonable condition. The Church will be open on Sunday afternoon before the sale for you to leave your items. Also, if you are able to provide cakes and tray bakes for the refreshments they would be very welcome. Thank you for your continued support.

**Tuesday Club Annual Charity Evening** on Tuesday 16 May at Putnoe Heights Church at 7pm for a concert by Bedford Town Band in aid of Breathe Easy. Cost is £6 on the door including refreshments and a raffle ticket. Everyone welcome.

**Christian Aid Week 15 - 24** Envelopes at Putnoe Heights will be available from 8 May. Carolyn

**Storybox** at Putnoe Heights Church will start their new term on Monday 9th May at 12.15 to 1.15pm. Thank you to all our volunteers for their continued support. New volunteers welcome.

**Storybox Plus** at Putnoe Heights Church will start their new term on Monday 9 May at 3.30 to 5.00pm. Thank you to all our volunteers for their continued support. A big thank you to everyone who helped with our Good Friday special at Putnoe Heights Church this year. 35 children came to join us after the service and had a great time. Carolyn & Emma

**Prince William and Kate Middleton**, now the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, composed a prayer for their wedding at Westminster Abbey.

God our Father, we thank you for our families; for the love that we share and for the joy of our marriage. In the busyness of each day keep our eyes fixed on what is real and important in life and help us to be generous with our time and love and energy. Strengthened by our union, help us to serve and comfort those who suffer. We ask this in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

May the God of all grace, friend and companion, look in favour on William and Catherine and all who are made one in marriage. Deepen our love deepen strengthen our wills to keep the promises we make that we may continue in life-long faithfulness to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Rest In Peace

On the Sunday following a funeral service we remember in church those who have died. We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. If you would like a person remembered in our service when the candle is lit, perhaps on an anniversary or birthday, please inform the ministers, or telephone the church office.



*May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.'*



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## Forthcoming Funerals

**The funeral of Jean Hay** will take place at 11-30am on Tuesday 3 May at Bedford Crematorium

